

CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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October 5, 1998

The Honorable Maurice Johannessen
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Johannessen:

Thank you for your letter of October 1, 1998, regarding release of a working draft of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's Phase II report, which will include an updated, draft description of the CALFED preferred program alternative. Earlier plans called for release of this working draft on October 9, 1998. Your letter requested a temporary delay in release of this document.

CALFED will not release this working draft on October 9, due to a need to refine several issues related to the structure of the preferred alternative. As you know, CALFED agencies and stakeholders have been working on the specific provisions of staged implementation and decision-making as part of the description of the preferred alternative. An earlier description of the preferred alternative was included in material made available to the Bay-Delta Advisory Council and the public on July 8, 1998. On August 5, 1998, we released an expanded version of our description of the preferred alternative. The working draft of the Phase II report will include the next version of our draft description of the preferred alternative.

Current plans are that the finalized version of the description of the preferred alternative will be included in the revised draft programmatic EIS/EIR -- now scheduled for release at year's end. The revised draft EIS/EIR will also include revised descriptions of environmental and economic impacts of the Program, at a programmatic level, and it will address the technical issues raised in your letter. We will respond to you before that time, however, regarding the issues raised in your report as Chair of the Senate Select Committee on CALFED and in your letter of October 1.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

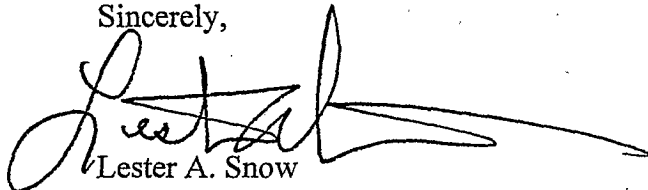
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

We believe it is important to release descriptions of the preferred alternative as it evolves, so that the public can better understand the specific proposals for integrating the various elements of the Program. In general, stakeholders have encouraged CALFED to publish draft descriptions of the preferred alternative as it is being developed and to take more time with production of the programmatic EIS/EIR.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have further questions on this material, please call me at 657-2666 or Daniel McCarroll, Legislative Coordinator, at 653-5704.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester A. Snow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

cc: Sen. Jim Costa
Sen. Dede Alpert
Sen. David Kelley
Sen. Richard Rainey
Sen. Hilda Solis